

135

Bauer says he serves residents best through Office on Aging

QUESTION: What is your top priority this year?

ANSWER: My top priority since taking over the Office on Aging in 2003 has been to improve the services to senior South Carolinians across the state. This year alone, over 2,062 more seniors have received services that had not previously been served by the Office on Aging.

Q: What is the most common complaint residents call about? What can you do to alleviate their concerns?

A: Year in and year out, tax increases seem to be the No. 1 complaint from South Carolinians. I try to alleviate their concerns by opposing new taxes and overruling unnecessary proposed tax increases.

Q: What are your political ambitions?

A: My political ambitions have always been, and are still to this day, to serve South Carolinians in the best capacity of which I am capable. Currently, I believe I am filling this need through my service to seniors in South Carolina through the Office on Aging.

Q: How do you spend your Saturday nights?

A: After the legislative week wraps up, I usually enjoy traveling to my home

in Charleston for the weekend. I spend most Saturdays catching up, and now and then, I enjoy kayaking or a bike ride around downtown Charleston.

Q: What is the most creative way you could propose to generate new revenue for the state?

A: I have proposed several times that South Carolina rent land used by rest areas to restaurants in order to generate new revenue for the state. The rest areas could then be placed in the middle of the interstate so that both directions of traffic use one rest area. The state has several of these rest areas, one being on Interstate 385.

Q: What is the least effective government agency and how can it be made more effective?

A: The Department of Social Services is the least effective government agency. I would significantly decrease the size of the department to allow and encourage faith-based groups' participation in providing essentially the same services the department currently offers, but in a more efficient manner.

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Post and
Courier
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From Page:
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7/15/2007
64009



Lt. Gov. Andre Bauer

Bauer, 38, was first elected as lieutenant governor in 2002 and re-elected in 2006 after the Republican served in the House from 1997 to 1999 and in the Senate from 1999 to 2002. A native of Charleston, Bauer graduated from the University of South Carolina in 1991 and was named Alumnus of the Year in 2001. He is a member of the Republican Lieutenant Governor's Association, served as fundraising chairman for the American Red Cross in 2005 and represented the American Council of Young Political Leaders in Australia in 2000. Additionally, he served as a delegate at the Republican State Convention in 2000 and 2004, and in the National Republican Convention in 2002, among other service. Bauer, who is single, is a businessman and real estate developer and a member of the Civil Air Patrol. He also is a member of Union Methodist Church.